SOME THOUGHTS UPON THE Duke of Savoy's SEPARATION FROM THE LEAGUE.

Quantum mutatus ab illo.

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THE great Surprize all *Europe* has been in at the News of the Duke of *Savoy* separating himself from the Confederates, has given occasion to a Report, that he wou'd

wou'd very ſoon publiſh a *Manifeſto*. At leaſt, all Arguments do induce us to think, that Report, though ſo generally ſpread abroad, had no other Raiſe and Ground than that of making the Surprize ceaſe. For what other Benefit cou'd be expected from a *Manifeſto*? It is not to be imagined, that his Royal Highneſs ſhou'd be willing to undertake the laborious, and altogether uſeleſs Task of making an Apology for what he has done.

That Artifice has been already worn out by the *French*, who in ſome caſes thought it neceſſary to ſupport the Juſtice of their Cauſe, by their *tours d' eſprit*, and their fine Expreſſions. But they have given over long ſince, to ſeek by ſuch Means for Honour and Advantages. The Age is grown

grown too wiſe to catch at bare Words and leave the Thing behind.

Here, all that can be ſaid, may be expreſs'd in theſe few Syllables. Eight Years ago the Duke of *Savoy* judged, it was for his Glory and Intereſt to join himſelf to the League: His Intereſt and Glory makes him abandon it now. That's all the *Eclairciſſement* a Soveraign Prince, Maſter of his own Actions and Ends, owes to his Subjects and to the World. At his own Peril and Risk afterwards, if the Counſel he has acted with, does prove to be none of the wiſeſt.

Taking then for granted, that there will be no *Manifeſto*, the Scope intended here, is only to ſet down what is ſaid to have been deſigned for the Matter of one, and at the ſame time prepare an Anſwer to it. It

It is well known to all the World, the Duke of *Savoy* was born of a Family who has been long ſo tied to *France*, that they cou'd never in their Politicks and Intereſts follow other Meaſures, but thoſe that were given thence. The Duke was brought up from a Child under the Tuition and Government of his Mother, a truly *French* Princeſs, in all reſpects whatſoever. He learn'd to ſpeak and to think but by the *French*; and from thence one may eaſily imagine, whether or not he took himſelf to be one of them.

His Youth did influence no alteration nor change in his Circumſtances; and ſince his Majority as well as before, there was nothing reſolv'd of in his Council, but what was tranſ-

mitted from *Verſailles*; ſo that the Duke has never been allowed to walk without French Leading-ſtrings.

'Tis true, he made bold ſometimes to complain of the little conſideration he was in with his Majeſty; but *Lewis* XIV. went on for all that in his uſual good Manners. All the humble and inſtant Repreſentations that were made to him, cou'd never obtain the leaſt interruption to the raiſing of the Fortifications of *Pignerol* and *Caſal*; both which Places were made mighty ſtrong, and threatned the Liberty of the Duke's Dominions.

Whenſoever his Ambaſſadors did Speak aloud and ſay, It was a Shame their Maſter had no part, nor concern in any thing of Conſequence; the French King's Miniſters, to appeaſe them, were always ready with

the ſham Propoſal of exchanging *Nizza* for *Geneva*; a Matter, as they pretended, much to the Duke's Advantage: Which was no more but Cardinal *Richelieu*'s old Project, to which the Duke's Grand-father would never conſent.

They did however, foreſee in *France*, That the Duke of *Savoy* was not like to degenerate from his Anceſtors, and that he would, like them, have Ambition enough to make himſelf diſtinguiſhed in the World. To prevent then his ruining himſelf by ſome ill-taken-meaſure, they began to think in good earneſt to do ſomething for his Advantage, and to his Satisfaction: And ſuch was the good Fortune of *Lewis* XIV. that the Crown of *Portugal* was at that time, in a manner, at his Diſpoſal. He gives Orders, without any delay, that it be offered to the

the Duke, with all the Circumſtances that could aſſure him of it : And one may eaſily imagine with what fervent Inclination, ſuch a mighty Offer was accepted.

The thing, however, was kept as much as poſſible from the knowledge of his Highneſs's Subjects, of whom he is certainly the Delight. But thoſe of his Favourites, that were intruſted with the Secret, did begin to look upon him as Gliſtering already with a new-acquir'd Glory. The Liveries were made at *Geneva*, with all ſpeed ; they were very Magnificent, and fit for the greateſt Monarchs. Every thing elſe was in the like readineſs ; they waited only for the Fleet from *France*, with a good number of Princes and Lords of that Court, to attend him into *Portugal*. But, as an inſtance of the inſtability of

Humane Things, the Duke remained what he was before, Kin gof * *Cyprus.*

We owe that Juſtice to his Royal Highneſs, that he reſented his falling ſhort of that Crown in the higheſt manner he durſt, with the King of *France.* That Monarch, on his ſide, neglected nothing of what was practicable to hinder that the Duke's reſentment ſhould make *e'clat* in the World; and there was undoubtedly in that, a great deal of Reaſon and Wiſdom in both Parties.

There remains to be mentioned, if we could but find Words proper enough to expreſs it, the Neceſſity to which *France* reduced the Duke of *Savoy*, in ſuffering the beſt of his Sub-

* *The French pronounce, in this caſe, as if it were* Cipher.

jects,

jects, the *Vaudois*, to be Maſſacred in their own Valleys, by French Dragoons. Future Ages will hardly believe, what Hiſtory will record upon that Subject; That the Great King, ſurnamed the *Moſt Chriſtian*, in the higheſt pitch of his Glory and Proſperity, ſhould go, without any Provocation, to look for new Enemies in the wildeſt and horrideſt Parts of the *Alpes*; and to uſe a poor ſort of People, ignorant of the Affairs of the World, and almoſt unknown to the reſt of *Europe*, as if they had been ſo many cruel barbarous *Cannibals* without God and Laws, who had threatned to invade his Empire.

Moreover, the Perſecution they made theſe good People ſuffer, will appear more credible in its Circumſtances, for all they are ſo ſad and dreadful, when recorded after the Uſages

Uſages the very Subjects of *France* have undergone themſelves.

But the great Difficulty in this, will be to diſcover any thing that can vindicate, or ſhew the Right of the Duke of *Savoy*'s Soveraignty over his own People and Subjects. It's true, the late Edict of his Royal Highneſs, in favour of the little remainder of the *Vaudois*, expreſſes well enough that he was forced by a Foreign over-ruling Power. But there remains ſtill a Queſtion to be asked, Whether or no the Duke of *Savoy*, as well for this Breach made upon his Soveraignty, as for all thoſe other Particulars we have made mention of, which do ſo highly concern his Honour, has ſince performed any Act that becomes an offended Prince?

What

What his Royal Highneſs has done ſince, anſwers that Queſtion with a Supplement of ſuperabundant Glory for himſelf.

The Princes and States of *Europe*, who had reſented long before the many Uſurpations of *France*, having found at laſt among themſelves, the Means to ſtrengthen the Knot which kept them united againſt that Crown, the Duke of *Savoy* did open his Eyes very ſeaſonably and ſaw, that this League might be a powerful Help to free him of thoſe ſo many opprobrious Uſages he had been expos'd to; and to revenge himſelf of them, he inſtantly entreated to be admitted into it.

He backt his Reſolution with Addreſs enough. His Journey to *Venice*, to manage there an Interview with ſome

ſome of the Confederate Princes, under the plauſible Pretence of ſharing in the Pleaſures of the *Carnaval*; the difficult *detours* which he made uſe of with the French Sharp-Ey'd Obſervers of all his Steps; the viſible Dangers to which he expos'd himſelf and his Dominions from a powerful Enemy he was a drawing upon himſelf, at a time when he had neither Treaſure nor Army; were Things that did him a great deal of Honour in the World.

'Tis known what a favourable Reception his Envoys met with in all Courts; with what ready Inclination the greateſt of the Confederates did enter into thoſe ſo chargeable Obligations, to ſupply him with Mony and Forces. Nor can we forget the Speeches, full of Expreſſions of publick Gratitude, he has ſince ordered his

his Miniſters to make his Benefactors.

For the time of Eight Years paſt, there has been no diminution made to the Supplies granted him, although the War has been carried on from Year to Year with more Vigour, Mony grown more ſcarce, and the People in a much worſe Condition to grant the Sums; part of which were to be ſent into *Piedmont*.

The Confederates have alſo continued all along in the ſame honourable Sentiments they had conceived of him, and of which he had certainly reaſon enough to remain contented. The Misfortunes he has ſuffered by the chance of Arms, have made no other Impreſſions upon the Confederate Princes, but to indear him to them more and more; and, as if the

Duke of *Savoy* had become more deſerving by theſe Misfortunes; after the Loſs of a Battel, and being threatned with yet greater Dangers, their Friendſhip and Eſteem were never greater: And his Friends were the moſt generous, as well as the moſt powerful Potentates in *Europe*.

But above all others, the ſureſt Mark of the good Opinion the Confederates had of the Duke's Principles and Sincerity, was, that none of them wou'd believe he had ſeparated himſelf from the Confederacy, until he had in good earneſt enter'd into and ſign'd a Treaty; and by it given himſelf away, Hand and Foot, to the French for ever.

We had drawn him with new Rays of Glory, for his having rejected the Propoſals made him by *France*, at a time

time when he was in ill Circumſtances, and his Affairs in the worſt poſture. We were wont to repeat, with Pleaſure and Admiration, what we had been told of the Duke of *Savoy*, when, after the Battle of *Marſale*, a great Perſon telling him, All was loſt, and that the French were marching to *Turin*: He anſwer'd, *Let us do, as the Duke of* Lorrain *did, go to* Vienna *and beg of the Emperor to ſerve in his Army.*

'Tis a fine thing to have the Name of a Man of Honour; but it is yet much finer to be lookt upon as incapable of ever forfeiting that Character. Thoſe were the univerſal Sentiments of all Mankind that had ever heard of the Duke of *Savoy*. And we know to this Day but of one Exception to be made, which is what is ſaid of the Marquis *de Leganez*,

That he is, perhaps, the only Perſon who has not been miſtaken, this great while, in the Proceedings of the Court of Turin; *and that for ſome time, he had ſhrew'd Suſpicions of the Duke's want of Sincerity in his Actings againſt* France.

To this purpoſe, it is reported, That the Army, under the Command of the Duke, having forced its way into *Dauphine*, with leſs difficulty than was expected; it was in their option, which Town they ſhou'd attempt firſt, as being equally without Defence.

The Confederate Army was expected at *Grenoble* and at *Lyons*, with the ſame Allarms: Either of them wou'd have been ſuch a Blow, that the French could ſcarcely have retriev'd. But the Marquis *de S. Thomas* was there, and thought dangerous for his Maſter's

ſter's Glory, to go even ſo far as *Ambrun.*

The Marquis *de Leganez*, wearied with ſtaying ſo long without Action, diſpatched, at laſt, one of his Court to the Duke of *Savoy*, to tell him, *He found a Myſtery in his Conduct, which he did not comprehend; and that if the Army had no other Progreſs to make into* France, *he was going to betake himſelf with his own Troops back to the* Milanez. At that Meſſage, the Duke was ſtruck as with a Thunder-bolt, ſuch is the force of Truth; and the rather, becauſe he knew *Leganez* was a Man not to be eaſily impos'd on; a true *Spaniard*, of nice Honour, and ſo regardleſs of his private Fortune, that he has incumbred his Eſtate, during his Government, whereas all his Predeceſſors have got vaſt Treaſures.

What

What could be done to detain him? Who was the Perſon thought propereſt to appeaſe him? None in the Army was judged fitter for the purpoſe than the Duke of *Schomberg*, equally belov'd and eſteem'd by all, though neglected by the Duke of *Savoy* and his Miniſter, who could never be reconciled to a Character ſo reſembling to that of the Marquis *de Leganez*. The Duke of *Schomberg* entreated he might be excuſed from accepting ſo nice a Commiſſion; but, at laſt, his good Temper and natural Generoſity prevail'd with him to accept it.

The Marquis *de Leganez* received his Viſit as of a Perſon he truly valued, and told him frankly; *My Lord, if I knew you leſs, and did I not believe you are put upon, as well as my ſelf, I ſhould make your*

your Lordſhip my Priſoner; and were the Duke of Savoy *here in my Power, I would carry him to* Milan. The Small Pox happen'd to ſeize the Duke at that very time, which greatly endanger'd his Life; but it yielded him, however, this viſible Good, That the World took it for certain, that that unlucky Accident was the only Cauſe, that hindered the Confederate's Army from fixing themſelves in the very Bowels of *France*.

The Suſpicion we have ſpoken of, being khown but to few Perſons of Honour, has been kept as a great Secret. A great many others, who believed themſelves to be well informed of the Duke of *Savoy*'s true Sentiments with regard to the *French*, have judged all along, that he would remain irreconciliable to them, had he no other Reaſon for it, but that he

he was wounded in the livelieſt and moſt ſenſible Part, by a thouſand ſharp Railleries was paſt upon him, and which they took care to inform him of. It is in effect but the proper part of a Tyrant, to harden himſelf againſt every thing that can be ſaid: A Prince who loves his Honour, reſents always, with the greateſt Nicety, any thing that reflects upon it.

To report here one of thoſe *Traits piquans.* The whole Court of *Turin* was informed, That a French General Officer, of *Catinat*'s Army, had ſent to the King an Account of the Battle that was fought in *Piedmont*, in theſe Words: *Sir, a Detachment of your Majeſty's Army having durſt to advance as far as the* Venerie, *the Duke of* Savoy *hearing of it, ſaid, How! the French into my* Venerie; *'tis too much by G----, 'tis too much;*

much; let us go and Fight them. He came, he saw, and he was beaten.

It wou'd have been thought, such sharp Things might have made Wounds, that shou'd bleed eternally; so much the more, that they were opened anew every Day. However, it was not so in this case.

We dare not speak, but in a dead Language, the full Truth of what we see at this present time,

Quantum mutatus ab illo.

but let us be less surprized, when we consider, Princes, as much as other Men, are full of Uncertainties and Contradictions.

The Duke of *Savoy* separates himself, as one may say, from the rest

of the World, to be in Society and Union, but with the *French*. This makes a true and perfect opposition to what was thought and believ'd, till now. He gives himself to them for good and all, without any restriction or reserve, altogether *de bonne Grace*; at a time, that he is out of all Dangers; without being detained by the hopes that the League, after it had rais'd him to some consideration in *Europe*, might, in a short time, have brought him to the point of making good the honourable Design that had drawn him into it. Like a very Gallant Prince, the infinite Favours he has received of the *Puissances* he separates himself from, are of no other use to him, but for to render more agreeable the Sacrifice he makes to his new Divinity.

Very

Very likely the Duke of *Savoy* does not love to do Things by halves. That Character has its Merit: And if his Royal Highneſs has found it very improper for him to continue one of the Confederates, and that he cannot be well matched but by *Lewis* XIV. there is certainly a great deal of Wiſdom in the choice he has made, and the French King will, without doubt, reward it, as it deſerves. That great Monarch has already made the Duke of *Savoy* Generaliſſimo under *Catinat*; a little while longer, and we ſhall hear, he has made him King of *Poland.*

After all, to ſpeak here as ſeriouſly as the Matter deſerves, let us give credit to our Thoughts upon the Duke of *Savoy*'s Separation from the Confederacy, by a confirmation from

what is reported to have been ſaid on this occaſion, by ſome of the higheſt, as well as the wiſeſt ſort of Men.

A Prince, the true Hero of the Age, who might have done himſelf and the Duke Juſtice, to complain of ſuch a great piece of Ungratefulneſs, contented himſelf to ſay theſe moderate Words, at the time he received the certain News of the ſeparate Treaty; *I am ſorry the Duke of* Savoy *has made ſuch a dirty Step.* Generoſity is the propereſt part of a worthy Prince; and as with that Virtue he is above ever receiving a Reproach of Ingratitude, ſo is it below him to make any, though never ſo well deſerved.

But theſe laſt Actions of the Duke are ſo plainly and ſo fully known to all Mankind, that few ſuch Words as theſe,

theſe, do find as ſoon as pronounced, large Interpretations enough in every Body's Knowledge. It muſt be confeſt, beſides, that it becomes ſuch great Princes as the Confederates, to have ſaid little in their own Cauſe, and have left the World to judge of it.

Let us but repeat what has been pronounced againſt the Duke of *Savoy* in that very Court, where, as it is Religion to believe, does reſide more Juſtice than any where elſe. In a Congregation of Cardinals, the Pope being preſent, whom his Royal Highneſs acknowledges to have been a good Father to him, in perſuading him out of the Confederacy, ſome of them having made it their Buſineſs to repreſent what a commendable Action the Duke of *Savoy* had done, and how much it was to his advantage,

tage, one of thoſe Cardinals cou'd not forbear replying, *That, if they found the Duke of* Savoy's *Separation had procured him any Advantages, they were oblig'd to confeſs, he owed them to the League.*

So we need not give our ſelves the trouble to find out new Arguments in a caſe, the power of Truth will not ſuffer to be diſguiſed no where in *Chriſtendom.*

S DIEGO

F I N I S.